

band of villiform teeth; a similar angular band on the vomer; no palatine teeth.

The dorsal fin commences on the foremost and highest part of the nape, and is composed of two portions which are connected at the base by a very low membrane. Both portions are very high. Of the spines the third and fourth are the longest, not quite one third of the total length without caudal; the longest rays are somewhat shorter. Anal fin about as deep as the soft dorsal. Caudal fin as long as the longest dorsal spine. Pectoral fin very large and broad, the seven lower rays being particularly stout and simple.

The body is covered with very small and indistinctly ctenoid scales; head and fins entirely naked. Nearly every part of the fish is covered with long fleshy tentacles, simple or fringed at the end; they are most numerous on the spinous dorsal and on the pectoral fins, but very few in number on the soft vertical fins. The largest are on the jaws, on the top of the orbital edge, along the præopercular margin, and along the lateral line. The eye itself is surrounded by a ring of small tentacles.

Ground-colour brownish, marbled with irregular round, greyish, brown-edged spots; a pure white round spot on the cheek, on the base of the pectoral fin, on the back of the peduncle of the tail, and on the end of the lateral line. A pair of oval black ocelli between the sixth, seventh, and eighth dorsal rays.

The total length of this fish is seven and a third inches.

5. On the Occurrence of a rare Fish (*Lophotes cepedianus*) at the Cape of Good Hope. By R. TRIMEN, F.Z.S.

[Received July 21, 1891.]

Specimens of *Lophotes* appear to be still of such rare occurrence that it may be of interest to record the capture of an example of *L. cepedianus* in False Bay on the 6th June, 1891.

This example was found on the sea-shore at a spot named Blue Dunes, about 5 miles east of Muizenberg, by some men in the employ of Mr. J. Hirsch, who has presented the fish to the South-African Museum. Mr. Hirsch was informed that it was alive when discovered; and its fresh condition when I received it at 1 o'clock (several hours after it was taken) lent much probability to this statement. The only injuries the specimen had sustained were the loss of the greater part of the caudal fin, and the fracture of some of the rays of the dorsal fin, including the long and strong first ray, but in the last-named the part snapped off (about two thirds of the total length) had been saved by the donor.

The specimen agrees very well with the figures given in Cuvier and Valenciennes's 'Hist. Nat. des Poissons' (pl. 301), and in the Atlas of the great illustrated edition of the 'Règne Animal' (Poissons, pl. 70), with the exception that there are no traces of the numerous rounded paler spots. This may perhaps be indicative of the

immature fish, as the specimen now under notice is not more than three feet in length. It is also to be noted that the pectoral fins are silvery, and the anal and broken caudal fins silvery tinged with red; that the first ray of the dorsal fin, apparently complete, is acutely pointed,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, and but very slightly curved backward; and that the pupil of the eye is not round but oval longitudinally, as shown in the figures of *L. fiski*, Gthr. (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1890, pls. xix., xx.), but with a slight downward inclination anteriorly. The minute ventral fins are distinctly five-rayed. The depth of the body not far from the head is five inches and three-quarters, but its stoutest part in the same place, along the dorsal line, is rather less than half an inch in thickness.

Dr. Günther (*loc. cit.* p. 245) suggests that *L. capellei*, Schleg., and *L. cristatus*, Johns., may possibly be conspecific with *L. cepedianus*, and in that case the latter would be recorded as having occurred in the Mediterranean, off Madeira, and in the Japanese Sea; while its discovery now at the Cape of Good Hope will supply a further proof of its wide oceanic range. It is interesting to find both the type species of *Lophotes* and the very distinct *L. fiski* turning up in the same Bay within two years of each other.

South-African Museum, Cape Town,  
30th June, 1891.

## 6. On a Specimen of *Pleurotomaria* from Tobago, West Indies. By R. J. LECHMERE GUPPY, C.M.Z.S.

[Received October 28, 1891.]

Among some shells placed in the Tobago Court at the Trinidad and Tobago Exhibition of 1890, my attention was soon drawn to a fine specimen of *Pleurotomaria*. On inquiry I found that the shell was the property of a gentleman of Tobago, off which island it had been obtained. The original owner having died, I was unable to obtain complete particulars respecting the acquisition of the shell, which after some negotiation became my property.

In an interesting paper by Henry Woodward, published in the 'Geological Magazine' for 1885, some particulars are given respecting the fossil and recent species of the genus, of which I avail myself. According to this author the number of fossil (extinct) species of *Pleurotomaria* is 1156, of which 226 are British. The genus was supposed to be entirely extinct until 1855, when the first living example was found by M. Beau off Mariegalante. This was described by Fischer and Bernardi in the 'Journal de Conchyliologie' for 1856 (p. 160, pl. v.) as *Pl. quoyana*. This specimen, 45 millimetres in height, was in 1873 purchased by Miss de Burgh, of London, for £25—a sum, as stated by the editors of the 'Journal de Conchyliologie,' rather below than above the real value of so rare a shell, of which, as stated by Woodward, only three examples are known up to the present time.